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INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Turkey/Syria/Egypt

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SUBJECT Turkey and the Arab League

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SUPPLEMENT

1. The Council of the Arab League is studying the question of the port of Iskenderum (Alexandretta) and the Syrian Government is anxious for all the members of the Arab League to espouse their cause. The Damascus Government endeavored to approach Feridun Cemal Erkin, Secretary General of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on this subject on his way to Amman, but Erkin, wishing to avoid a discussion of the Hatay problem, proceeded directly to Trans-Jordan.
2. It is this general attitude on the part of the Turkish Government in refusing to re-open the Hatay question which has prompted Syria to appeal to the Arab League for support. The Arab press opened a campaign in favor of Syrian claims and special efforts are now being exerted to induce Egypt officially to recognize these claims.
3. It is also reported that during Feridun Cemal Erkin's visit to Amman, King Abdallah of Trans-Jordan attempted to interest Turkey in the Palestine question as well as in the Hatay affair. With regard to the Palestine question, the Turkish delegate emphasized that although his government was most anxious to cultivate the friendship of the Arab States, it would not be possible to deviate from Turkey's course of strict neutrality and that where the Hatay question was concerned, the Turkish attitude, as already repeatedly stressed, was final. Given this attitude, the Arab Press in Palestine and Syria is speculating on what possible basis friendly relations between Turkey and the Arab States could be established since these are two problems of prime interest to the Arab World.
4. In connection with Turkish-Egyptian relations, it is now learned that immediately after the announcement of King Abdallah's visit to Ankara in January, King Faruq of Egypt cancelled his sister's (Princess Fariza) proposed visit to Turkey. The Egyptian Consul General indicates that there can no longer be any question of King Faruq's visiting this country, since the precedence accorded to King Abdallah of Trans-Jordan would involve considerable loss of prestige for Egypt. Egyptian circles in Istanbul resent King Abdallah's project for a Greater Syria and are very critical of Turkey's friendly relations with Trans-Jordan.

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